

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 01326 210917Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-11 SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 065840

P R 201725Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4681

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 1326

E.0. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR SP

SUBJ: ETA TERRORISM BACKFIRES

REF: MADRID 0984

1. ETA RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN OF ASSASSINATION OF MAYORS WHO "COLLABORATED" WITH THE GOVT, AS IT HAD ASSASSINATED 9 FEB THE MAYOR OF GALDACANO. TWO RECENT BUMBLED ETA TERRORIST ACTS, HOWEVER, HAVE PROVIDED CRITICISM AND WEAKENED SOMEWHAT THE TACIT ACCEPTANCE ACCORDED TO THEM AMONG THE BASQUES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 01326 210917Z

2. ON 10 FEB, THE SAME DAY THAT ETA-V CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE MAYOR OF GALDACANO, A 37-YEAR OLD WORKER WAS ASSASSINATED IN THE BASQUE TOWN OF CIZURQUIL. FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS FELT HIS MURDER RESULTED FROM A MISTAKE IN IDENTITY, AND ON 12 FEB THE ETA ADMITTED THAT THE ASSASSINATION HAD BEEN AN ERROR. THOUSANDS ATTENDED THE VICTIM'S FUNERAL IN PROTEST.

3. GROWING BASQUE DISGUST WITH THE ETA WAS ALSO FUELED BY THE PROTRACTED KIDNAPING OF A BASQUE INDUSTRIALIST'S SON (SEE REFTEL). THE YOUTH WAS FINALLY FREED IN FRENCH TERRITORY-- WHERE HE HAD BEEN HELD--NEAR THE SPANISH FRONTIER 18 FEB. BUT THE 36 DAYS OF THE CASE WERE MARKED THROUGHOUT BY IRRESOLUTION AND DIVISIONS AMONG ETA GROUPS OVER THE LEGITIMACY OF THE KIDNAPING, THE SIZE OF THE RANSOM, AND A DEMAND BY THE KIDNAPERS FOR ADDITIONAL MONEY AFTER THE FIRST HAD BEEN PAID.

4. NONETHELESS, AMCONSUL BILBAO NOTES THAT ETA-V (THE LEADING ETA GROUP) HAD MANAGED TO SUFFICIENTLY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM BOTH EVENTS BY BLAMING THEM ON MAVERICK COMMANDO GROUPS TO AVOID DRAINING ITS RESERVOIR OF PUBLIC ACQUIESCENCE. THEY STILL MAINTAIN THE CAPABILITY TO KILL, AND SOME MEASURE OF LEADERSHIP, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NUMEROUS SPLINTER GROUPS NOT WHOLLY UNDER CONTROL.

STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, ASSASSINATION, MAYOR, TERRORISTS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID01326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0258
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760230/aaaabaei.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 984
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETA TERRORISM BACKFIRES
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006